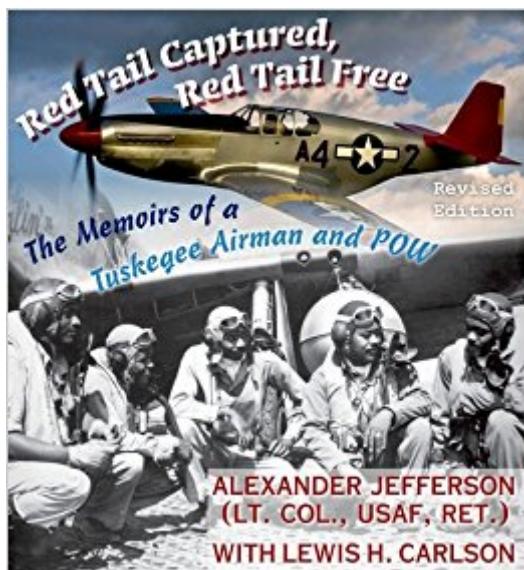


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# Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs Of A Tuskegee Airman And POW, Revised Edition (World War II: The Global, Human, And Ethical Dimension)



## **Synopsis**

Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free is a rare gift detailing the experience of Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, who was one of 32 Tuskegee Airmen from the 332nd Fighter Group to be shot down defending a country that considered them to be second-class citizens. In this vividly detailed, deeply personal story, Jefferson writes as a genuine American hero about what it meant to be an African American pilot in enemy hands, fighting to protect the promise of freedom. The book features the sketches, drawings, and other illustrations Jefferson created during his nine months as a POW, and Lewis Carlson's authoritative background to the man, his unit, and the fight Alexander Jefferson fought so well. This revised edition covers the story of Jefferson's continuing outreach and education work, as he brings the story of the Tuskegee Airmen to communities and schools across the country, and the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Airmen in 2007. Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free is perhaps the only account of the African American experience in a German prison camp.

## **Book Information**

Series: World War II: The Global, Human, and Ethical Dimension

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Fordham University Press; Revised ed. edition (June 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823274381

ISBN-13: 978-0823274383

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #579,662 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #128 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Hispanic & Latino #1113 in Books > History > Military > Aviation #1451 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black

## **Customer Reviews**

Jefferson, a Tuskegee Airman who was shot down during World War II and held in a German prison camp for nine months, recalls better treatment as a prisoner of war than as a black citizen in the U.S. He had been fascinated with airplanes since his childhood in Detroit, where he was born into a long line of clergymen and educators, who nonetheless suffered the racial indignities of the time.

Jefferson went on to become a chemist when the chance to join the 332nd Fighter Group captured his imagination. He piloted a Red-Tail Angel, one of the planes assigned to protect bombers' crews. On his eighteenth mission, he was shot down over southern France and taken to Stalag Luft III, a camp primarily for captured British and American Air Force officers. While at the camp, he began recording observations of the cold, occasional shootings of prisoners, but mostly boredom and hunger. Later, he recorded his impressions of the ignominious welcome home reserved for black soldiers. Photographs and Jefferson's drawings during his imprisonment add to the fascination of this memoir. Vanessa BushCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

". . . If Detroit's Museum of African American History wants to prosper, it need do no more than establish a wing for one of the great stories of the Second World War, the tales of the Tuskegee Airmen, the military's first black pilots, who were trained at a remote training complex near Tuskegee, Alabama. . . . The black bomber escorts made history because they never lost a bomber to the enemy. . . . Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free . . . 56 years in the making, is the result of thousands of hours of Alexander Jefferson's working in his basement. It should be a part of every public school and community library in America."-Detroit News and Free Press". . . One of the few memoirs of combat in World War II by a distinguished African-American flier; it is perhaps the only account of the African-American experience in a German prison camp."-Ebony"Photographs and Jefferson's drawings during his imprisonment add to the fascination of this memoir."-Booklist

A few years ago on a visit to Honolulu, I met the author of this book. We chatted briefly about his war years and mine (Vietnam). On returning home, I purchased this book on . It was most fascinating as a personal history, but also a history of WWII. Any reader might be interested in the growth of an American from childhood to adulthood with many adventures which not many of us go through. We all have our own adventures, of course. This book expands our horizons. It is easy to read and easier to thank this gentleman for his part in making the country all that it could and should be.

I never learned of the Tuskegee Airmen in history class. It remained for a business trip to take me to the Tuskegee campus in the 1970s for me to learn of their contributions. In summer of 2012 I had the opportunity to hear a lecture by Col. Jefferson. He still travels and is sharp as a tack. His lecture was as much about Civil Rights as WWII history but his story is inspiring. He points out in his lecture

that when he was born white men has just granted the vote to white women. They didn't think much of black men. The book details his life and War experiences. It could use an updating but it is a worthwhile read and an inspiring story. When he returned for war and POW camp he came down the ship ramp to be ordered "n\*\*\*\*\*s to the left". Yet he remains proud and stands tall for America.

I can't get enough of the Tuskegee Airmen, but this work is very different. Jefferson takes you on a journey through a prisoner's life. His illustrations are emotionally-charged, sharp and make this work unique in the Tuskegee history collection. It's important to point out this work is an important WWII history book and should not be overlooked by historians covering military aviation history simply because its focus is on the Tuskegee Airmen. One of the problems in so many military history books is the omission of segregated unit accomplishments and challenges.

my 10 year old needed it for a book report .he enjoyed the read. it did have a few adult words in it  
Nothing that was offensive enough not to read the story. Great book he got an A

Awesome book and courageous story. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Jefferson in July of this year. Wonderful man!

I truly enjoyed reading about the trials and successes of a Red Tail pilot.

I haven't read the book yet. but from what lead so far ,it is a good book.

Received as described

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